(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allocated Rs. 75 crore for vedic study in primary schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scholarships for higher education

†397. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements have been made to provide scholarships and bank loans for getting higher education from the institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Human Resource Development during the recent years;

(b) if so, number of students provided with the scholarships and bank loans during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students amongst the said beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development does not give affiliation to the educational institutions. Scholarships to students in educational institutions are given by various sources including Central and State Governments and loans are advanced by banks directly to the students.

(b) and (c) No Central data is maintained in this regard.

Revamping higher education

398. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are planning to do away with structured course system in a major move to revamp higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether extensive consultations are proposed to be held with educational experts and specialists in the field and with the various State Governments in the matter before taking a final decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) There is no plan to do away with the structured course system in the country. However, revamping of higher education is a process, which is being undertaken by Government continuously.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Drop in research and development expenditure

399. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for drop in R and D expenditure from 0.85 per cent in 1990 to 0.66 per cent of GDP now;

(b) to what extent has it hurt our competitiveness in the external market; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to achieve the target of 2 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The Research and Development (R&D) expenditure as percentage of Gross National Product has gone up from 0.79% in 1990-91 to 0.81% in 1998-99.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In addition to encouraging investment in R and D, both in industry and institutions, the 10th Plan Science and Technology outlay for scientific agencies has increased to Rs. 25243.00 Crores from Rs. 12022.17 Crores in 9th Plan.